

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 02196 091751Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 DODE-00 /066 W
-----052533 100013Z /21

R 091700Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9414
INFO USDAO/DAKAR SENEGAL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 2196

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS ML
SUBJECT: FY-1979 IMET PROGRAM FOR MALI

REF: STATE 043768

1. SUMMARY. THE AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY THE
DEFENSE ATTACHE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD D HUGHES,
DISCUSSED THE PROJECTED FY-1979 IMET PROGRAM FOR MALI
WITH LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOUGARI SANGARE, ARMY CHIEF OF
STAFF, ON MAY 5. SANGARE WILL DRAW UP A LIST OF TRAIN-
ING NEEDS FOR CONSIDERATION . END SUMMARY.

2. THE AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH
DEFENSE MINISTER KISSIMA DOUKARA TO INFORM HIM OF THE
IMET PROGRAM REQUESTED FOR MALI IN FY-1979, BUT THE
APPOINTMENT DID NOT COME THROUGH BEFORE DOUKARA WAS
ARRESTED ON FEBRUARY 28 FOR PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW
PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE. IN THE ENSUING PERIOD OF
INSTABILITY, IT WAS DECIDED TO KEEP THE MATTER IN
SUSPENSE UNTIL THINGS HAD SETTLED DOWN, PARTICULARLY
SINCE THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAD ASSUMED THE DEFENSE
PORTFOLIO ON AN INTERIM BASIS, MANY SECOND-LEVEL
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OFFICERS HAD ALSO BEEN ARRESTED, AND THE MILITARY
ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE WAS UNCLEAR.

3. WITH THE COINCIDENCE OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S
VISIT AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW CABINET ON MAY 4
(THE PRESIDENT RETAINS THE DEFENSE MINISTRY), THE
AMBASSADOR AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL HUGHES TOOK THE

OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE IMET PROGRAM WITH LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOUGARI SANGARE, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, DURING THEIR CALL ON HIM ON MAY 5.

4. COLONEL SANGARE WAS REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY BY FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER DOUKARA IN EARLY 1977. HE WAS REINSTATED FOLLOWING THE PREEMPTIVE COUP OF FEBRUARY 28 AND HAS IN ADDITION BEEN HANDLING VARIOUS DAY-TO-DAY QUESTIONS IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY FOR PRESIDENT TRAORE. UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS OF MAY 4, HE WILL RETURN TO THE GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF JOB.

5. IN THAT POSITION HE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING IN ALL THE SERVICES. SANGARE INDICATED FAMILIARITY WITH U.S. MILITARY TRAINING PROCEDURES, HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAINING MATTERS IN THE EARLY 60'S.

6. WE INFORMED HIM ON MAY 5 5#-5, ASSUMING THE CONGRESS ACTED FAVORABLY, A GRANT OF \$180,000 IN MILITARY TRAINING WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR MALI IN FY-1979, SHORTLY AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1978. ABOUT HALF THAT SUM WOULD GO FOR AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LABORATORY AND AN AMERICAN INSTRUCTOR AND THE REST WOULD BE USED FOR TRAINING MALIANS IN THE

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UNITED STATES, IN SUCH FIELDS AS ENGLISH INSTRUCTION METHODS, ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, OR MANAGEMENT, ACCORDING TO MALI'S NEEDS. WE EXPLAINED THAT MATERIEL WAS NOT AVAILABLE, NOR WAS PILOT TRAINING.

7. COLONEL SANGARE EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE THAT THE MILITARY TRAINING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MALI AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE RESUMED AND COMMENTED THAT MALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TRAINED IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE PAST WERE REGARDED AS HAVING RECEIVED THE BEST INSTRUCTION AND WERE AT THE TOP OF THEIR SPECIALTIES.

8. HE AGREED TO PROVIDE A LIST OF DESIRED TRAINING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR HIS VISIT OF A USEUCOM TRAINING TEAM IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.

9. COLONEL SANGARE ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF BUYING UNIFORMS IN THE UNITED STATES. WE SAID WE WOULD LOOK INTO THE QUESTION AFTER HE SUBMITTED A LIST OF REQUIREMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAMAKO02196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780197-0153
Format: TEL
From: BAMAKO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780580/aaaacqkf.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ea52aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 43768
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2756717
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY-1979 IMET PROGRAM FOR MALI
TAGS: MASS, ML
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ea52aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014